

Remarks

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error whereby Figure 4 was erroneously referenced as Figure 5. No new matter is added thereby. Claims 1, 13, and all remaining claims by virtue of dependency have been amended to recite that at least one of the frame and said separator plate have support bumps. Written and graphical support for this amendment is shown and described at Figure 5 and in the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11. No new matter is added thereby.

35 USC § 102(e) and 35 USC § 103 (a)

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 8, 9-14, and 17 as anticipated under 35 USC § 102(e) by Haltiner et al. (US 2003/0235746A1) and has further rejected claims 2, 4-7, 16, and 18-21 as unpatentable under 35 USC § 103(a) over Haltiner et al. in view of Carolan et al (US Pat. No. 5,750,279) and James et al. (US Pat. No. 5,766,789 A). None of the forgoing references remotely show the feature of a support bump as is now set forth as an explicit limitation in the claims. Absent such a teaching in the references, there is no *prima facie* case for obviousness under 35 USC § 103(a) or anticipation under 35 USC § 102(e). Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the examiner remove his rejections under 35 USC § 102(e) and 35 USC § 103(a), and allow the claims to issue.

Conclusion

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place the above referenced application in condition for allowance and action toward that end is respectfully requested. Should the

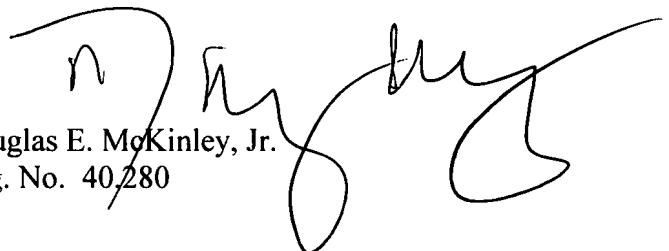
Appl. No. 10/609,069
Reply to Office action of May 16, 2007

Examiner have any further observations or comments, she is invited to contact the undersigned for resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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The undersigned hereby certifies that the forgoing Amendment dated November 16, 2007 in reply to the office action of May 16, 2007 together with a fee sheet (PTO form SB/22) and a return postcard are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on the date set forth below.

Douglas E. McKinley, Jr.
Reg. No. 40,280

Date

